

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01 OC-06 CCO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7256

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO

SECDEF WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

USNMR SHAPE

USDELMC

CINCUSNAVEUR

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

DIRNSA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, GR, US

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION CONTINUE PUBLIC DISCUSSION  
ON BASE AGREEMENT

REF: ATHENS 10741 (DTG 051638Z OCT 76)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE SUBJECT OF U.S. BASES IN GREECE  
CONTINUED TO OCCUPY BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION  
ON OCTOBER 5 AND CONTINUES TO BE FEATURED IN THE PRESS  
TODAY (OCTOBER 6). IN AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT ISSUED LAST  
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NIGHT, AND CARRIED IN ALL OF TODAY'S NEWSPAPERS, THE

GOVERNMENT AGAIN WENT FIRMLY ON THE RECORD IN DEFENDING THE PRINCIPLE THAT U.S. BASES IN GREECE SERVE COMMON INTERESTS. AN AUTHORITATIVE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN HAS ALSO DENIED EARLIER "REPORTS" (REFTEL) THAT THE GOG WAS WAITING FOR A NEW ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON NEXT YEAR TO SIGN A NEW ACCORD WITH THE USG ON THE BASES. END SUMMARY.

2. ON THE MATTER OF THE TIMING OF THE SIGNATURE OF THE EVENTUAL AGREEMENT ON US BASES, GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN PANAYOTIS LAMBRIAS TOLD THE LOCAL UPI BUREAU CHIEF--IN A STORY CARRIED ON THE UPI WIRE LAST NIGHT--THAT REPORTS THE GOG WAS WAITING FOR A NEW ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON ARE "PURELY IMAGINATIVE." LAMBRIAS REPORTEDLY WENT ON TO SAY THAT NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE BASES ARE CONTINUING AND ONCE CONCLUDED THE AGREEMENT WOULD BE PRESENTED TO THE NEW US CONGRESS FOR RATIFICATION.

3. IN ADDITION, THE SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY REPORTS THAT "A GOVERNMENT SOURCE" (WE ARE TOLD IT WAS LAMBRIAS AS WELL) STATED: "THERE HAD BEEN NO POSTPONEMENT OF THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT FOR THE SIMPLE REASON THAT TALKS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND GREECE HAD NOT YET ENDED. THE ALTERATION (SIC) OF THE TIME FOR CONCLUDING THE AGREEMENT WAS NO SURPRISE BUT INSTEAD WAS NATURAL, SINCE THE NEGOTIATIONS COVERED VARIOUS TECHNICAL ISSUES ON WHICH TALKS HAD NOT YET FINISHED. AS REGARDS AGENCY REPORTS CONNECTING THE ALTERATION OF THE DATE OF THE SIGNING WITH INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES, IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT THE CASE DID NOT ARISE SINCE GREECE NEVER LINKED HER NATIONAL INTEREST WITH INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES."

4. THE OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT STATEMENT IS AS FOLLOWS:  
BEGIN QUOTE: THE NOISE ABOUT THE BASES IS PURE DEMAGOGUERY. THIS IS WHY. FROM THE MOMENT OF HIS FIRST PROGRAMMATIC DECLARATIONS, THE PRIME MINISTER ESTABLISHED THE POLICY OF THE REVISION OF THE STATUS OF THE (AMERICAN) BASES. LAST YEAR (ON OCTOBER 16, 1975), HE EXPLAINED IN PARLIAMENT WITH GREAT CLARITY: 'THE ISSUE OF THE BASES HAS NOT BEEN CREATED AS A RESULT OF HOSTILITY TOWARDS AMERICA BUT FROM A NEED TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HARMONIZE THE STATUS OF THE BASES WITH MODERN CONDITIONS AND OUR NATIONAL NEEDS. IT FOLLOWS THAT SOME BASES ARE BEING ABOLISHED AND OTHERS LIMITED. ONLY THOSE WILL BE RETAINED WHICH AT THE SAME TIME SERVE OUR DEFENSE INTERESTS. AND THEY WILL BE PLACED UNDER NATIONAL CONTROL.' THIS POSITION WAS ACCEPTED BY ALL AS SOUND POLICY. IT IS BEING FIRMLY FOLLOWED BY THE GOVERNMENT BECAUSE IT BELIEVES THAT IT IS DICTATED BY THE NATIONAL INTEREST. CONSEQUENTLY,

THE ALMOST DAILY REFERENCE TO THE ISSUE OF THE BASES IS ONLY CONCERNED WITH THE CREATION OF IMPRESSIONS. AND IT NOT ONLY FAILS TO SERVE HUMAN INTERESTS, BUT, IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, MAY WELL BE HARMFUL TO THEM. FINALLY, IN REGARD TO THE SPECIAL FEARS OF THE LEADER OF THE UNION OF THE DEMOCRATIC CENTER, AS IS KNOWN THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY STATED THAT IT WILL SUBMIT THE AGREEMENT ON THE BASES TO PARLIAMENT FOR RATIFICATION. MR. MAVROS KNOWS, SINCE HE HAS SERVED AS FOREIGN MINISTER, THAT THE PARLIAMENT DOES NOT CONDUCT INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS. THIS IS DONE EVERYWHERE AND AT ALL TIMES BY THE GOVERNMENT. END QUOTE.

5. SOMEWHAT BEHIND THE FLURRY OF GOVERNMENT COMMENTS, OPPOSITION LEADER GEORGE MAVROS TOOK ISSUE WITH THE EARLIER STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO GOVERNMENT SOURCES THAT THERE WOULD BE NO SIGNATURE OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE USG ON AMERICAN BASES UNTIL AFTER JANUARY 1976. MAVROS MAINTAINED, IN A STATEMENT ISSUED YESTERDAY, THAT THE MAJOR CONCERN WAS NOT WHEN THE GOG SIGNED THE AGREEMENT BUT WHAT IT AGREED TO BEFORE IT SIGNED AND THAT THE OPPOSITION'S VIEWS SHOULD BE HEARD FIRST. ALLEGING "WHAT MATTERS IS NOT THE TIME OF SIGNING BUT THE OBLIGATIONS UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT," MAVROS COMPLAINED ABOUT THE GOG'S "SECRET DIPLOMACY" ADDING "WHAT IS WITHHELD FROM US IS ALREADY KNOWN TO THE ENEMIES OF GREECE."

6. SEVERAL ATHENIAN DAILIES TODAY PICKED UP THE OCTOBER 5 AP REPORT ALLEGING THAT "OFFICIAL GREEK SOURCES" SAID THAT "THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE HAD DELIBERATELY AVOIDED SIGNING THE AGREEMENT BECAUSE OF ITS DISCONTENT WITH THE FORD ADMINISTRATION'S INABILITY TO SECURE ANY PROGRESS ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE OR ANY OTHER GREEK-TURKISH DISPUTE."  
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